

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sealing a puncture tract disposed within tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a housing; [[and]]

an expandable member disposed through the housing, the expandable member being configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue; and

a plurality of needles coupled to the housing, the plurality of needles configured to penetrate tissue surrounding the puncture tract to deliver a closure agent into the tissue[[,]] to thereby seal[[ing]] the puncture tract.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the expandable member is configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue during insertion of the plurality of needles.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the expandable member is disposed from a distal end of a shaft coupled to the housing.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a stop configured to limit translation of the plurality of needles into the tissue.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising an actuator coupled to the plurality of needles for selective translation of the plurality of needles.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the housing further comprises a manifold configured to cooperate within a source of the closure agent, wherein the closure agent received in the manifold comprises a biodegradable substance.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the biodegradable substance is chosen from the group consisting of a water swellable gel, collagen, a saline bolus, a slurry of a biocompatible substance, and combinations thereof.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the housing further comprises a manifold configured to cooperate with a source of the closure agent, wherein the closure agent received in the manifold comprises an inflammatory substance that causes a localized inflammation response.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the inflammatory substance comprises copper sulfate.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising ~~wherein the closure agent comprises~~ at least one balloon coupled to the plurality of needles, the at least one balloon being the closure agent.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein ~~the closure agent is coated onto~~ the plurality of needles are coated with the closure agent.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein each one of the plurality of needles comprises a distal tip configured to penetrate the tissue, a distal aperture, and a lumen that couples the distal aperture to a source of closure agent.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed adjacent to the distal tip of each one of the plurality of needles.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a radiopaque band disposed on the distal end of the shaft.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the housing further comprises a manifold having an inlet port, the manifold in fluid communication with the plurality of needles.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the plurality of needles are configured to translate with the manifold.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the expandable member has a deployed configuration configured for engagement with an interior surface of a vessel.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Canceled).

43. (Canceled).

44. (Canceled).

45. (Canceled).

46. (Canceled).

47. (New) An apparatus for sealing a puncture tract disposed within tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a housing having a base with a lumen;

an expandable member disposed through the lumen of the housing and including a stop configured to cooperate with the base, the expandable member being configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue; and

a plurality of needles coupled to the housing, the plurality of needles configured to penetrate tissue surrounding the puncture tract to deliver a closure agent into the tissue, thereby sealing the puncture tract.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the expandable member is configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue during insertion of the plurality of needles.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising an actuator coupled to the plurality of needles for selective translation of the plurality of needles.